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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON MCC AND G-8, JUNE 20, 2005

1. On 06/14 the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an op-ed by Juan Mendingo entitled "The true external debt." "It's a good thing that our government got debt forgiveness from Paris Club and now from the G-8, composed of the most powerful nations of the world."

"From what I understand, debt forgiveness means that our government is obligated to invest this money in social-economic and environmental projects."

"The reinvestment projects should be transparent and with active community participation. The communities should establish their more immediate necessities. Planning and project execution should be developed under strict auditing because we fear funds would be badly invested. On the contrary, without increasing bureaucrats' earnings for such purpose, we want projects to be specific. An area where it can be invested could be renewable electrical energy."

2. OP-ed by Nicolas Rishmawy in Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Heraldo," titled "Populism Bill." "Populism unties passion. But all those passions come from crossed opinions. To some populism is a memory of the glory years. To others, those images are a mirage: what you see are not the luxury years, they are the broken dishes that we are now facing. To tell you the truth, populism has two sides: kind years and years paying the broken dishes."

"In certain way, populism lives by borrowing from the future, when crises happen and the future reaches us it turns out unable to postpone the bill."

"Today Honduras is paying the bill. Maduro's government has had the ungrateful responsibility to split the bill and makes us pay it, he has done it so well that 60% of our external debt has been erased, so well that Honduras is the second country to have access to the MCC's funds. But he has done it so well that these success have converted him into an unpopular governor."

"With the upcoming elections it is better not to trust those who promise nirvana because in the right balance between investment and social spending, countries' development is found. Accepting dinner invitations from those who pay with our credit is forgiving debt in the emptiness all the sacrifices that have to be done and that we haven't finished paying."

Palmer